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# homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

(Release anytime before  
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SUBJECT: "FOOD SHOPPING TIPS." Information from marketing specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

--ooOoo--

Here's more news of prices and supplies of foods coming to market these days.

This news is to help you plan meals and buy food to best advantage.

Total supplies of foods in this country continue to be larger than last year's.

supplies though some of this food will go abroad under Lend-Lease arrangements.

During the month of September the food picture probably will look like this: more

beef, lamb, poultry, fresh vegetables, and fruits, except citrus fruits; smaller

amounts of pork, dairy products, and eggs; more canned vegetables from the record

pack of 1941 to take the place of dwindling stocks from last year. In spite of this

outlook for large supplies of so many foods, prices will still be much higher than

last year. In fact, retail food prices will probably be higher than any year since 1930.

You can expect to find more fresh vegetables for sale during the last half of

this month than during the first half. But even so, fresh vegetables won't be as

plentiful as they were a year ago, and they'll cost more. Growers have planted just

as many acres to vegetables as they did in 1940, but crops have been smaller because

of unfavorable weather.

More cabbages, onions and potatoes will be coming to market the next two

months as crops from States that produce late get underway. These States not only

furnish most of the cabbages, onions and potatoes used in the fall, but also a large

share of those used the year around. So retail prices of these 3 vegetables are

lowest in October and November when harvesting is heaviest. But crops of these

vegetables will be smaller this year than last, and prices will be higher.



As for canned vegetables, they're making a new high record this year.

Supplies of canned vegetables are much larger than last year's. But because the demand for canned tomatoes is so great at present, your markets may have fewer canned tomatoes on their shelves.

Peach season won't be over until early October. Marketings will not be heavy until after September, however.

Here's the melon outlook for the rest of the season: Many more cantaloups and about the same amount of watermelons as we had this time last year.

Better gather together all your apple recipes and have them ready. Many more apples will be coming to market for the rest of 1941. Many more apples will be for sale this fall than last. September is the month when the really large shipments of apples get underway. Marketings of apples are heaviest in October when prices hit bottom. After November the price of apples generally goes up until May or June.

You'll probably pay more for oranges in October than you've paid all year because supplies of oranges will be low. More oranges will be going to market this fall than a year ago, but even so, supplies are at their seasonal low. Most oranges on the market this month and next will be Valencias from California.

Now from fruits let's turn to meats. You'll find much more beef for sale at your market up to the middle of this month than a year ago at this time. The outlook is for considerably more beef for the rest of '41 than we had in '40. Much of this larger supply will be "good" and "choice" beef. So the difference in price between this fine quality beef and low grade beef, called "commercial" or "utility" grade may not be as great as usual. Just the same, the average price of beef at retail markets for the rest of the year will probably be higher than last year's prices. But the peak price level may not differ much from that of last year.





As for pork, you can expect less of that for the next four months. And you can expect the price to go up still more before it starts down, as it probably will later in the fall.

Probably this will be a good year to make a collection of nut recipes, too, for supplies of nuts will be larger than last fall. The almond crop is smaller, to be sure, but the big crops of walnuts, pecans and filberts will make up for it.

The rice season opened in August and the rice crop this year is of record large size. Not much rice left from last year, but plenty coming in.

Here's a note about poultry: For the rest of 1941 many more young chickens will be coming to market for broiling, frying and roasting. But not so many older birds for stewing and boiling. Ordinarily, supplies of poultry get larger each month during the fall, and the lowest prices for the year come in December.

One last tip. If you like that good vegetable, cauliflower, now is a good time to indulge. Supplies of cauliflower this month will be much larger than usual and larger than last year. The peak of supplies of cauliflower will come in October.

That's all the shopping tips for today. More in a fortnight.

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